

Heritage homes hammered

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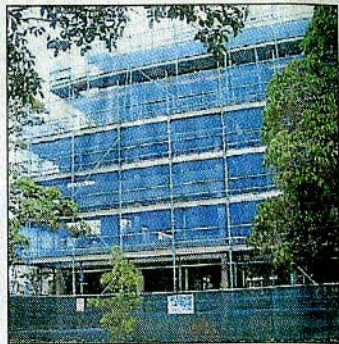
Urban Affairs Editor

FOUR out of five homes with heritage significance in Sydney's upper north shore villages face demolition under a draft plan for the area.

In a paper opposing the plan, which is awaiting approval from the Department of Planning, the National Trust says "692 family homes of some heritage significance will be demolished within the Ku-ring-gai town centres" to make way for medium- and high-density development.

It says 373 of those buildings "will or already have been torn down", with houses at risk including one at 23 Park Avenue, Gordon, that was home to the designer of the Harbour Bridge, John Bradfield, and another at 26 Park Avenue that was home to the founder of the National Trust, Annie Wyatt.

In a report called *Strip Mining Sydney's Heritage*, the trust condemns the draft Ku-ring-gai Local Environment Plan (Town



After the ball ... development at 25 Tyron Road, Ku-ring-gai.

Photos: courtesy Friends of Ku-ring-gai

Centres) which, it says, "fundamentally conflicts with the region's outstanding heritage value" and threatens an area that includes every Sulman architecture prize winner for domestic buildings between 1940 and 1956.

Scott Woodcock, who wrote the report, said much of Ku-ring-gai's heritage value emerged when the leafy area evolved as an offshoot of the late 19th-century English garden city movement that tried to blend

the best parts of country living with proximity to the city.

The new plan would potentially "raze 79 per cent of National Trust Urban Conservation areas" in and around Ku-ring-gai's shopping centres and transport hubs.

It was "designed to maximise development" by "strip-mining Sydney's heritage for its stamp duty revenue", the trust says.

The plan would also "erode the remaining 5 per cent of
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